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(2) whether the improvements carried out in the Bugga water-works have been successful;

(3) whether it is a fact that the pumping station erected at one of the experimental wells gave way in several places, and even after repairs has cracked and become dangerous for habitation; and

(4) what action the Government propose to take in order to supplement the present defective water-supply of the town?

*A.*—(1) & (4) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of question No. 675 of 1921.

(2) The answer is in the affirmative.

(3) A report will be called for.

*Imposition of punitive tax on Mr. Ramaswami Chaudhari of Tenali.*

672 Q.—Rao Bahadur K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that punitive tax was imposed on Mr. T. Ramaswami Chaudhari, Bar.-at-law, of Tenali, Guntur district;

(2) whether his article in the 'Ryot Patrika' on the Kenya question had anything to do with the imposition;

(3) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table the correspondence that led to this imposition;

(4) whether Mr. Chaudhari was given an opportunity to explain himself before the tax was imposed upon him; and

(5) whether it is a fact that this imposition has had a demoralizing effect on the people?

***A.***—The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer to question No. 607.

Rao Bahadur K. GOPALAKRISHNAYYA:—"The answer given here refers to the answer to a previous question No. 607, but no answer to paragraphs (4) and (5) is found therein. Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to give the House the answer to paragraphs (4) and (5)?"

The hon. Sir K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"The previous answer covers paragraphs (4) and (5) also, Sir. The taxation is imposed under statutory authority and the apportionment of the taxation is made by the District Magistrate. So far as I am aware, there is no particular provision for hearing parties before such apportionment takes place. That is so far as paragraph (4) is concerned.

As regards paragraph (5), Sir, whether the imposition of the tax has had a demoralizing effect on the people or not is a matter of opinion. So far as the Government are aware, it has not had such effect at all."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU:—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether he is in a position to tell us whether this gentleman had led any campaign of non-payment of taxes, whether the Government have any information and whether they made any enquiries in consequence of this or the previous question as to the exact reasons why this gentleman has been asked to pay this tax?"

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The hon. Sir K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I can only refer the hon. Member to the section of the Indian Police Act relating to this matter."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I know the section in the Indian Police Act. But the question is whether the Government have made any enquiries as to why this tax was imposed on this particular individual."

The hon. Sir K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I have nothing more to add, Sir, to the answer I have already given."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" May I take it, Sir, that the hon. the Law Member declines to tell us what is asked for ? "

The hon. Sir K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I have not declined to tell the House anything, but I consider that the answer already given covers this point."

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Does the hon. the Law Member wish to say that there are reasons assigned as to why this gentleman was subjected to this tax ? "

*Presidents of district boards.*

673 Q.—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many of the district board presidents in the Presidency are now being elected by the board and in how many cases the presidents are appointed by the Government ; and

(*b*) in how many cases the requests from the district boards for permission for the grant of the privilege of electing their presidents were refused, when and for what reasons in each case ?

*A.*—(*a*) Of the 24 district board presidents, two are elected by the boards and the rest are appointed by Government.

(*b*) Applications for electing their presidents were received during 1921 and 1922 from four district boards, but they were rejected on the ground that the applications were premature.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" When would the hon. the Minister consider such applications not to be premature, Sir ? How many years later if these applications are renewed would he consider them not premature ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Each question as it comes before the Government will be considered on its merits. It is impossible to say when any particular application can be considered not premature. Each case will have to be examined as it comes."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know the data on which such a conclusion is based with reference to answer (*b*), viz., that the applications were premature ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, I am afraid the question refers to a matter of opinion."